



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL D63 INTERCHANGE

District News and Events

District 63

January 2016
Volume 6, Issue 7

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Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Winterfest – Open House
opportunity

Touch Points

<http://d63.toastmastersdistricts.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/D63Toastmasters>

Newsletter Contacts

The D63 Interchange Newsletter is published by the District Public Relations Team.

For article submissions or comments, please email us at:

district63communication@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

One of the highlights of the Spring Conference each year is the election of new officers. On Saturday, April 23, District 63 representatives will cast their votes for the **2016-17 District leaders**.

In February, we will begin accepting nominations for these positions. Each of our clubs will also be electing Club Officers for the new year. Since many members may be contemplating a “run for office”, we thought it might be a good idea to find out what some of our officers do, what they like about their positions, and any advice they have for incoming officers. Not all positions are represented here. For more information on all leadership positions in the District, visit the D63 website and look under the “[Leadership Library](#)”.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR – It Takes A Team

The District Director is responsible for directly overseeing and managing the District’s day-to-day operations, finances, and human resources. Also, you attend District Leader Training and Mid-year training, as well as, completing online tutorials. A TEAM of District leaders help fulfill these responsibilities. To serve as District Director, you must have served at least six consecutive months as a Club President and at least 12 consecutive months as a Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director or Division Director, or a combination thereof at the time you take office.



Traci Hale, DTM
District Director

What are the up-sides of your position? The upside of District Director is that I get to meet a lot of people from across the District and the world. Toastmaster International puts a lot of time into training the Trio of a District. Meeting people across the District and the world, has made me realize, we all have the same problems of retaining members and growing clubs. It has also helped me to think outside the box about how to get people motivated. What works for one group does not automatically work for another group. It takes a “TEAM” to be successful. District 63 has a lot of TEAM players and its fun and interesting to hear the different ideas.

What are the biggest challenges? The biggest challenge that I have experienced as the District Director is getting across the whole District and hearing from the the different Club officers and club members. I enjoy the face to face contact so much. Luckily, D63 members are available by other means of communication.

Do you have any recommendations for in-coming Directors? I highly encourage all members to get involved outside their club. The experience of working with different areas, cultures and personalities has helped me grow as an individual and at my "Paying" job. There are several different Toastmaster roles in the District, and the more you do them the better you get. My 2nd year as Area and Division Governor were a lot more interesting and fun than my first year. I knew what I was doing and I had a plan from the the day I took office. For the next incoming District Director, I would highly encourage you to start transitioning into the new role as soon as elected. You will be surprised at how quickly those last 2 months go by. Also I would encourage you to use the Toastmaster Leadership tools that are provided.

Why should I (as a D63 member) want to serve in this role? The District Director role, to me, is more about learning to work with TEAM members and make sure they understand and are actively doing their roles. The Director role is not about micromanaging a person or committee, but it's about keeping in communication with them so that we are all staying on task to be Distinguished.

Any funny / interesting stories you can tell about this year? Getting the new title of District Director has finally made the people at my work place take notice. I have been in Toastmaster just over 6 years (and the time has gone by quickly). In a performance review in July with my boss, I felt he glanced over what I was trying to say about Toastmasters until he heard my new title. Once he heard the word "Director" he perked right up and started asking questions. He started to pay attention to me and ask questions because at my work his title is "Director."

Anything else you want to tell us! As a member of Toastmaster and D63, I hope everyone is following the Toastmaster program, enjoying and challenging themselves and stepping outside their comfort zone. Six years ago I would never have gotten up in front of 150 people to speak, but now I can say I have and I lived to tell the story. Thank you to the D63 members across the District that have encouraged me in my different roles in Toastmaster. Everything I have learned in Toastmasters has helped me in my home life as well as my work life.

PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR

The job of a Program Quality Director (PQD) is to ensure the clubs have quality education programming. This encompasses both the club members and also club officers along with Area and Division Directors. This can range from the Summer Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) training. Winter Officer Training.

personal club programming. A lot of my job includes delegating and trusting that it will get done.



Kim Santan, DTM
Program Quality Director

What are the up-sides of your position? The upsides for me? I get to meet a lot of people all over the District and the world. I get to use my strengths in organizing and planning to help the members of D63.

What are the biggest challenges? I've found the biggest challenge in the fact that not every Division has the same need. Trying to find a balance to fit the needs of all the members can be difficult, but also rewarding.

Do you have any recommendations for in-coming Directors? GO FOR IT! This has been the most rewarding year, and I am so glad that I have served as PQD. I would recommend that every member serve at least one year in the top 3 positions of District Leadership.

Why should I (as a D63 member) want to serve in this role? Is education your passion? Do you get excited seeing people succeed in their goals? Is planning events something that you enjoy? If the answer to these questions is "yes", then this is the role for you. I spend a lot of hours on the computer, answering emails, researching programs, learning from World Headquarters (WHQ), and on conference calls, but it is so rewarding when you talk to people across the District and around the world. It has helped me expand my communication and leadership skills way beyond anything I could have gotten at the club level.

Any funny / interesting stories you can tell about this year? When we went to Las Vegas for District Leader Training last August, we had interviews set up with the candidates for International President and International Director. We had some scheduled for the day we arrived. What we didn't account for was the 3

hour time difference between Pacific Time and Eastern Time.

I was trying my hardest to interview candidates, but I could hardly keep my eyes open because the time change was so late. Going to District leader training and the International Convention is something that every member should experience at least once in their lifetime. Serving as a Top 3 leader affords you the opportunity for that experience.

Anything else you want to tell us! GO FOR IT! If you have even an inclining that leadership is a passion for you, then serving as PQD is very rewarding.

FREE WEBINAR

Mark your Calendars for Judges Training, What to look for in a good speech?

When: Tuesday, February 16, 2016

**With special guest trainer
Maureen Zappala**

----- CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR -----



Jimmie Roberts, DTM
Club Growth Director

The Club Growth Director role is to lead front line actions to ensure that the District Mission is accomplished. The District Mission is, "We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence." As one of the top three leaders in the district, the Club Growth Director is responsible for:

1. Marketing Strategy,
2. Membership and Club Growth.
3. Division, Area and Club Administration
4. District Executive Committee
5. District Store

I spend most of my time in generating and chasing new club leads and in encouraging struggling clubs to maintain and grow membership. There is nothing more rewarding to me than to see a prospective new club come together and mature through the chartering process. Second to a new club birth, is to witness a struggling club rise again to be viable and eventually become distinguished.

The biggest challenge that I face in this role is to recruit, motivate, and mentor enough leaders across the district so that they become interested, knowledgeable, passionate, and actionable in club growth activities. Since this is a continuous and long-term process, relationship building with other leaders across the district must start early. Other leaders with commitment and trust must be encouraged join

the leadership team as D63 Directors.

One of the most interesting things that I have experienced so far is that you never know what to expect when you meet with a group of prospective Toastmasters. Some will listen to your presentation of the benefits of Toastmasters with eagerness, but will never follow up on chartering actions. Others will be excited and say, "Can we sign-up today?" You must always be ready to go with the flow.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for Club Growth Director for the upcoming 2016-2017 Toastmaster year, I encourage you to give it a run! Feel free to contact me to learn more about what it takes, on a day to day basis. You may also visit www.toastmasters.org/districtleadercompetencies for more information.

ATTENTION!!!

**District Leadership Nominations
are due by**

March 1, 2015

Visit D63's website for forms

<http://d63.toastmastersdistricts.org/>

DIVISION DIRECTOR – AN INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE



Jene Coy, DTM

The role of Division Director involves the oversight of a great group of Area Directors who work with, and help, the area clubs succeed. The Division Director reminds the Area Directors about upcoming events, reports, etc and when they are due. S/He answers

questions about Toastmasters and serves as a liaison between the District and the various Clubs in his/her Division. The Division Director sets the budget and goals for their Division. His/Her primary focus is to help the clubs that require additional support by offering ideas and encouragement for growth and retention.

When not assisting the Area Directors or clubs, the Division Director focuses his/her time on finding new clubs for their Division, contacting various business and universities throughout the community. S/He seeks for ways to improve training and advertise Toastmasters throughout their entire area.

What do you do?

We began the year by identifying our target audience as being primarily those who are 18-80 age range, able to attend meetings, enjoys learning while having fun, and willing to become Toastmasters. We then contacted some local business to promote new clubs in Chattanooga and the surrounding areas, including Cleveland. We discussed various advertising opportunities and spoke to local Colleges about offering a SpeechCraft course to their students in hopes of building up surrounding clubs. Currently I am organizing Area and Division Speech Contests.

What are the up-sides?

The upside for me has been the privilege of speaking in additional clubs as I travel throughout the Division visiting each, networking with the club, and so on. By visiting the clubs at least once per year, it gives members access to District Leadership that they might not otherwise have, especially those members who do not attend Division or District events. Visiting clubs always helps me pull together the various clubs into one cooperative Division. We have found some clubs helping others grow as a result.

My Public Relations experience has improved, and I personally have grown as an individual.

What are the biggest challenges?

My biggest challengers have been (1) finding coaches for struggling clubs; and (2) finding new members for all our clubs.

Do you have any recommendations for incoming Directors?

My best recommendation is to shadow the outgoing Division Director. Learn everything you can from them before you actually take over. It makes the takeover seamless.

Why should I (as a D63 member) want to serve in this role?

The experience is invaluable to you. You will find that your able to stretch beyond anything you have ever done, and feel good about a job well done!

Any funny / interesting stories you can tell about this year?

Well, at the beginning of the year, many people didn't know what to call me. This is the first year we changed titles from Governor to Director, so we had a few misspeaks in titles.

Anything else you want to tell us!

My biggest challenge was letting go of my past roles like Club President and Coach, etc., and allowing new people to take over those roles. I'm still working on the letting go! It is definitely a growing process.

JOIN THE D63 WINTERFEST

What is "WinterFest"?

WinterFest is a very special opportunity for your club to increase it visibility, gain some new members, energize your current members, and earn a little cash.

Watch your email for details.

AREA DIRECTOR A MOST REWARDING ROLE

The Area Director role is the most rewarding role that I have had in Toastmasters. The role is about service. It teaches one how to truly become a servant leader. It is more than simply attending the clubs twice each year. I perform many unofficial visits so that I can be present to serve the club and its officers. I mentor some of the presidents as well. I performed biweekly teleconferences with one of the presidents until she felt comfortable in her role. I consistently make myself available for all of my clubs to offer guidance and support.



Shaun Markwardt
ACR CI

What are the up-sides?

There are many up-sides. The biggest upside for me is that I have been able to truly serve the different clubs in various capacities. I've also have the opportunity to develop lasting relationships with the clubs and officers, and you have the ability to make significant progress toward your Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) designation. If a club has any open spots, they often invite you to speak which allows you to get credit in manuals. That is a pretty big benefit. I have made more strides toward the DTM this year than all of the other years I have been in Toastmasters combined.

What are the biggest challenges?

The biggest challenge I have faced is my desire to influence the clubs to move a certain direction that I think is best for the Toastmasters organization. I've found that the changes a club takes on must be their own. An Area Director cannot make a club move in a certain direction. The other challenge is managing your time with Toastmasters vs. time with your family or on your job. In order for club member to really become engaged, an Area Director must set an example and be engaged themselves. That requires many telephone calls and club visits.

Do you have any recommendations for in-coming Directors?

My recommendation for incoming Area Directors is to not take on too many other tasks. That stress could cause an Area Director to become burned out. For example, this year I was serving as my club's Vice President Education (VPE), Area Director, and the Spring Conference Co-chair. In addition, I was trying to complete as many educational goals toward my DTM

as possible. Because of all of the roles I was trying to balance, I didn't feel that I was fulfilling the VPE role properly. Therefore, I stepped down mid-year so that I could focus on my other roles and so that my club could elect a VPE that could focus more fully on their needs.

Why should I (as a D63 member) want to serve in this role?

Everyone should consider serving as an Area Director. I have experienced a significant amount of leadership growth in this capacity. That growth has greatly helped me in my career and family life. I have had a goal for a long time to become a servant leader. During this past year, I have learned how to truly serve. That's very meaningful to my career and my personal life.

Any funny / interesting stories you can tell about this year?

Interesting stories? I recently accepted a position with The Hartford Insurance Group as a catastrophe adjuster. I will be traveling all over the country helping people in catastrophic areas. For example, I just came from Dallas, TX helping people that were affected by the tornadoes right before Christmas. Since I will be traveling so much, I decided to set a goal of speaking in all 50 states at Toastmasters clubs. So far, I have spoken in Aurora, IL and Cincinnati, OH. I didn't speak in Dallas, I did attend a Toastmasters meeting there. In my travels thus far, I have found that Toastmasters are one large family. I have been welcomed with open arms at each meeting that I have attended and invited to go to dinner a couple of times too. It is really cool to see how other Toastmasters clubs and Districts do things. I am able to report things that are new to me back to my own clubs and District.

Anything else you want to tell us!

I have had the opportunity to work with some truly incredible people as an Area Director. I've always wanted to get to a point where I am leading leaders. The Area Director role has allowed me to do that. I am grateful that District 63 put its trust in me to fulfill the role of Area Director. This role is a lot of work. I am not going to sugar coat the amount of work that is required in order to perform the job function well. But, it's been worth every minute of my time to serve in this capacity.

PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER – A DREAM JOB



Stacci Thomas, DTM

Being the Public Relations Manager (PRM) for the District, has been a dream job! I've had so much fun in the last 2 years. As PRM, I've been responsible for communications between District Leaders and the members through the district newsletter, the D63 Website, email blasts, etc.,

What are the up-sides?

For one, I've gotten to exercise my creativity! From the website to the newsletter to working with different clubs on flyers, I've really gotten a chance to share ideas and experiment with words. It's very energizing.

What are the biggest challenges?

In the past PR has not been a high priority for D63 either at the District level or at the club level. My biggest challenge has been in changing this perception.

Do you have any recommendations for the in-coming PRM?

Yes, recruit help. Recruit as many people as you can to share the workload.

Why should I (as a D63 member) want to serve in this role?

This is the one role, so far, where I really feel like I've made a difference in D63.

Any funny / interesting stories you can tell about this year?

I met some of the most interesting people this year. Members of D63 that wrote or were the subject of articles, keynote speakers, members of other Districts, it was great.

Anything else you want to tell us!

This is a great job, I would do it for free, oh wait, I have been doing it for free.

CLUB PRESIDENT – A POSITION OF TRUST

By Vicki R Blair, ACB, ALB

The job of Club President involves organization, communication and trust. You organize the year, communicate with the Vice President Education (VPE), and trust the VPE to do his/her job. I work with the VPE to plan each quarter as we go. First, I set up a year-long calendar based on the prior year calendar. We also noted some of the pain points of the prior year to help us in planning for the current year. For example, with so many involved in the April District Conference, we realized that we were overworking our club members by having a Membership Drive and Open House around the same time that we were asking for donations for the Conference Silent Auction and encouraging members to attend.

What are the up-sides? The big upside has been working with an amazing group of members!

What are the biggest challenges? Communicating properly! It's sometimes a challenge to get the "stuff inside my head" to come out of my mouth, or into an email, with the same meaning.

Do you have any recommendations for in-coming Club Presidents? I have two recommendations for in-coming Club Presidents:

- 1) Plan ahead! and
- 2) Read every email twice **ONE.WORD.AT.A.TIME.** to make sure it says exactly what you mean to say.

Why should I (as a D63 member) want to serve in this role?

Serving as Club President is an excellent way to develop and understand your own leadership style. Taking on any role in an organization is a way to grow yourself as you learn to work with others to accomplish a common goal. In Toastmasters, you recognize that you also accomplish personal goals of improving, developing and understanding your leadership style! It is recognizable in TM because we have the "Club Leadership Handbook" to help guide us through the process. If you recognize your officers as valuable members, then you can trust them to fulfill the requirements of their roles as well.

Any funny / interesting stories you can tell about this year? As the VPE and I struggled to find a time to get together for quarterly planning before the holidays, we realized that we would be in the car together traveling to Nashville and back for the Fall Conference. I was asked, "Do you think that's enough time to plan a quarter?" Surely!

Anything else you want to tell us! I came across this quote from my Shoebox daily calendar, "The World's Problems would go away if we all just communicated more gooder."

CLUB VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP (VPM)

By Vivian Johnson, DTM

What does the role entail? What do you do?

Membership Chair at our Corporate Club is responsible for membership drives, being liaison for club morale and the distribution of information. We encourage members to go beyond their comfort zones to reach goals they don't realize they can do. We have new members packets with club history, Toastmaster International information, Acorn Sheets, a Guide to Educational Goals, and Member Applications. We also arrange Mentor/Mentee relationships within the club.

VICE PRESIDENT PUBLIC RELATIONS (VPPR)

In my opinion, the Club Vice President Public Relations (VPPR) is very important because our website is the first point of contact for most new member prospects. My focus has been on enhancing our club website to make it user-friendly. I am now working to get our members to start using the agenda on our website. In the past we have been using a Google Cloud document.



Flash Black, ATMB,
CL

One of our members has been helping me by working on our Facebook page as well. She has done a great job to promote it as this is another great contact point for prospective members.

I'm thinking that I may want to keep the VPPR role another year as I become more proficient at working with the website.

CLUB SECRETARY HIGHLIGHTS

by Wanda Earp, DTM, and Pam Bachman, DTM

Wanda Earp: I am serving in a dual role as the Sec/Treas, the roles are pretty entwined. The main thing a Club Secretary does is to keep 'soft' minutes at each meeting – which means I use the Agenda and make notes directly on the Agenda – so no formal "Minutes". I usually record the speaker's speech Title, Manual, and Speech project number, in case the individual loses their Manual and we need to re-create the information for project submission.

I send in the Officer's list, when requested and keep our email contact list up-to-date and distribute to all members. I recently gathered a list of emergency cell numbers and home addresses for distribution, as was requested by one of our members. We have a couple folks who travel to Bristol and in case they had an emergency, they wanted a phone number.

Pam Bachman:

I strive to attend each meeting and officer meeting where I take attendance and record meeting minutes. I also record the Best Speaker, Best Evaluator and Best Tabletopics speech and this goes into our planning for the end of the year meeting for the Toastmaster of the Year, best attendance, Best Evaluator, etc. If we have a Speechcraft, I send letters to the supervisors of the participants hi-lighting the importance of their participation in Speechcraft.

What are the up-sides? This role aids in being more organized and aids in developing your listening skills

What are the biggest challenges? Being present at each meeting and getting a backup to record attendance if you must be absent.

Do you have any recommendations for incoming Secretary? Prepare a membership list for each meeting (perhaps a spreadsheet) which makes it easier to take attendance.

Why should I (as a D63 member) want to serve in this role? This is an easy role to accomplish and you get to participate in the Executive Committee Meeting which allows for more growth and development within Toastmasters at the club level.

Anything else you want to tell us!

By taking attendance at each meeting, this provides good information to the VP of Membership on those who have been absent. It is always good to maintain contact with members when they are not attending regularly.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

WALKER STATE GAVEL CLUB CELEBRATES 300TH MEETING

The Walker State Gavel Club just celebrated their 300th meeting. Chartered in 2009-2010 by Kathryn Hicks, DTM, and Betty Ann Allgood, CL, the Walker State Club, located in Rock Springs, Georgia, boasts a membership of 20+ members.



According to Toastmaster International's website, "gavel clubs are a way of providing the Toastmasters experience to groups who may be ineligible for regular membership due to member age, inability to pay dues or other circumstances. In the case of Walker State, the members are inmates at the Walker State Prison, and according to Allgood it is a very successful program. "It provides an educational experience for them (the inmates) that will assist them in reentering society. In addition to improving (their) communication and leadership skills, the Toastmasters affiliation may provide networking opportunities for the members for job opportunities and fitting back into their communities. Statistics show that the recidivism (return to prison) rate for inmates participating in the Toastmasters program is almost nil," stated Allgood. "The benefits of the club are recognized by the prison authorities and the inmates."



With the passing of Hicks in 2015, Allgood has taken over as sole sponsor for the club. While the experience has been fulfilling, it has become something of a challenge as well. Allgood is currently seeking volunteers to assist in the program. Volunteers would need to commit their Friday afternoons once or twice a month. In addition there may be an occasional evening meeting. Please NOTE: all volunteers must pass a background check and go through a one-day training program prior to being accepted as a volunteer at the prison.

"It is an ongoing program and consistency in volunteers is essential for its continued success," said Allgood. "The men come from all walks of life with all levels of career experiences and educational levels. They are capable and mentor one another, and they are a delightful group, very courteous and appreciative of the Gavel Club and the Toastmasters program."

Gavel clubs provide Toastmasters members and clubs with an excellent opportunity for community service. If interested in



participating in the Walker State Gavel Club, please contact Betty Ann Allgood at 423-622-6181, cell 423-421-3445.

To read the entire article, and to learn more about Gavel Clubs, click [HERE](#).

District 63 Wall of Fame

The following people obtained educational achievements from December 19, 2015 through January 30, 2016:

Competent Communicators

Christine Barrows; Beth Ciaramitaro; Collette Hess; Lori A. Hughes; Randy C Keeler; Candace B. Listz; Dray Moultrie; Lauren Pottmeyer; Matthew Senay; Eric L. Walker; Elaine Wilder

Advanced Communicator Bronze

Paul F. Arnhold; Robert Mohon; Jimmie H. Roberts; Nicholas Parker Cook; Obi Badili

Competent Leaders

Eric L. Walker; Paul F. Arnhold; Helen Cothron; Laura Kraft; Quinton Goodman; Neysa Badili;

Advanced Leader Bronze

Mervin Keman Brown; Jacob M Mitchell; Michael J. Farina;